# NEW ENGLAND FARMER,

## AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

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## AGRICULTURAL.

From the Cultivator.

### THE SUGAR BEET—QUERIES.

*Guilford, near White-Post P. O. Clark Co., Va., July* 3, 1839.

JUDGE BUEL—Sir—I have recently become subscriber to, and a constant reader of your valuable and interesting paper, the Cultivator, and as I desire information respecting the culture of the sugar beet, I am sure it will give you pleasure thus to promote improvement, by diffusing useful knowledge.

A member of my family being about to commence farming on what we consider here as a small scale, a farm of 200 acres, which, in ordinary seasons, will produce five or six barrels of corn, or twelve or fifteen bushels of wheat to the acre, wishes also to combine with it the culture of the sugar beet, if, after inquiry, it shall be advisable to do so. It is limestone land, of a light soil, and the cleared parts much exhausted by excessive cultivation, until the last thirty years, when it changed hands, and since then has been gradually improved to the state above mentioned. The part in woods contains black oak, white oak, hickory, walnut and ash. From this description of our lands, you will, perhaps, be able to decide whether they are adapted to the sugar beet.

In a letter published in the National Intelligencer a few months ago, from Mr Ellsworth, the commissioner of patents, he stated that an acre of good land would produce twenty tons of the sugar beet, which would make 3,600 pounds of sugar, worth seven cents per pound. Now if our lands would yield the half or a fourth of that quantity, it would be infinitely better for us to go to making sugar at once, instead of raising corn and wheat at a heavy expense, while the seasons are so precarious and the prices so fluctuating.

You stated in a report on "root culture," in the March number of the Cultivator, for 1839, that "from the high state of perfection and of profit, which the business has arrived at in France and Germany, that the culture of this beet will soon be extensively gone into in this country, for the purpose of making sugar." In this opinion, sir, I fully concur; but how to obtain the information which is requisite to enable us to begin a business so entirely new here, is the difficulty I desire to remove. Will you, then, or some of your correspondents, do me the favor to say,

1st. What is the best time and mode of preparing land for the sugar beet?

2nd. Whether it is best to sow it broad-cast or in drills, when land is cheap and labor dear, and what would be considered a reasonable crop from land rich enough only to produce six or seven barrels of corn per acre?

3d. How many acres in beets can one hand cultivate, supposing him to have little else to do?

4th. What is the best way of preserving them in winter, where there are no root houses for the purpose?

5th. Do you know of any individual or company in New York or Pennsylvania, or even nearer to me, that is engaged in the manufacture of sugar from the beet?

6th. Can you inform me what such a manufactory would cost, and whether it is worked by water, steam or horse power?

7th. What is the practice in France or Germany, amongst those who cultivate the sugar beet, in regard to its manufacture? Does the farmer make his own sugar, or are there public establishments, like our mills, and the manufacture of the beet a distinct occupation from the raising of it? Since the plan of kiln drying the beet has been adopted, it would, I presume, bear transportation to market as well as other products.

8th. Is there any French or German work (translated into English,) on the subject, in the bookstores of New York or Philadelphia, that you can recommend?

Any information, not embraced in the above interrogatories, which may be deemed pertinent to the occasion, will be, I assure you, sir, most thankfully received, by your very ob't and humble serv't,

JAMES M. HITE.

ANSWERS.

We are not practically acquainted with the beet culture or the manufacture of beet sugar. We have published in former volumes, the best information we could obtain; but the business has been undergoing constant improvement in France and Germany; and it is upon this improved management, the details of which have not yet been made known to the American public, sufficiently to guide in the practice—it is upon this improved system of management that Mr Ellsworth has based his calculations. We have no doubt but the business will be ultimately introduced and made profitable, when judiciously managed, and we have as little doubt that it will prove to many a losing concern. We would rather be a follower than a pioneer in it.—Inviting from correspondents a more general answer to Mr Hite's queries, we will content ourselves for the present, with responding briefly to some of his inquiries. And,

1. The best time and mode for preparing land for the beet is, to apply manure to the previous crop, and to deposite the seed immediately after the preparation is completed, upon the fresh turned soil.

2. The seed should be sown in drills, to save labor. A reasonable crop would be from five to six hundred bushels.

3. A man can tend half as much ground in beets as he can in corn.

4. The beets *have been* preserved in the manufactory in France. They *may* be preserved in pits. If dried, they may be preserved wherever they can be kept dry.

5. We can give no particular reference.

To the other three inquiries we can give no satisfactory answers; but the coming six months we hope, will afford us the means of being more explicit in the matter. We will not withhold from Mr Hite our impression, that the climate of Virginia is not well adapted to the culture of the sugar beet—that it is too far south—the root in the south of France being far less rich in saccharine matter than that grown in the northern departments. We do not pretend to determine the beet zone; but we are inclined to think, that upon our Atlantic border, it is north of 42°.—*Conduc. Cult.*

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*On the Influence of Native Magnesia on the Germination, Vegetation, and Fructification of Vegetables.* By Angelo Abbene.

Among the various causes which produce barrenness in lands, has been enumerated the presence of magnesia, because it had been observed that the various magnesian soils are sterile. This opinion has begun to lose credit, since Bergmann, who examined the composition of fertile soils, considered magnesia as forming one of their principal constituents.

Prof. Giobert has performed a number of experiments to inquire into the action of native magnesia, which is found in numerous cultivated soils. In the environs of Castellamonte and of Baldissero, this substance is abundantly diffused in the soils cultivated with great success, and which exhibit a vigorous vegetation. There are many districts in Piedmont and elsewhere, where the bi-carbonate of lime and of magnesia is abundant in the cultivated lands, which produce beautiful plants. Giobert concluded from these experiments—1st, that native carbonated magnesia is not injurious to the various functions of vegetables; 2nd, that on account of the solubility of magnesia in an excess of carbonic acid, this earth can exercise an action analogous to that of lime; 3rd, that a magnesian soil may become fertile when the necessary manure is employed.

From these facts naturally proceeds the conclusion, that if the magnesia was dissolved in an excess of carbonic acid and water, and had entered like the lime into the composition of the sap, it ought to be found in the plants with the potash, lime, oxide of iron, &c. M. Abbene has ascertained this by the analysis of the ashes of plants which had grown in magnesiferous mixtures. Moreover he endeavored to find by comparative experiments, whether the influence of magnesia on vegetation is analogous to that of lime. The following are the conclusions he arrives at: 1st, native magnesia is not only not injurious to germination, vegetation, and fructification of plants, but on the contrary, appears to be favorable to these functions. 2nd, magnesia being soluble in an excess of carbonic acid, has on vegetation an action analogous to that of lime; and when a soil contains magnesia not sufficiently carbonated, this defect may be remedied by the addition of manure, which by its decomposition furnishes the necessary quantity of carbonic acid; the amelioration will be much more efficacious if the soil be frequently disturbed, as then the air will better exercise its action. 3rd, when lime and magnesia exist in arable lands, the former is absorbed in preference by the plants on account of

its greater affinity for carbonic acid. 4th. In barren magnesian lands, it is not to the magnesia that the sterility must be attributed, but to the cohesive state of their parts, to the want of manure, of clay, or of other composts, to the large quantity of oxide of iron, &c. 5th. Barren magnesian soils may be rendered fertile by means of calcariferous substances, as rubbish, chalk, ashes, marl, &c., provided the other conditions be fulfilled.—*Jour. de Pharmacie* de Janvier, 1839.

[For the New England Farmer.]

TO THOSE INTERESTED IN THE INTRODUCTION OF BEET SUGAR IN THIS COUNTRY.

The subscriber proposes to persons wishing to become acquainted with the manufacture of Beet Sugar, and having a few tons of beets for that purpose, to go on their premises with suitable apparatus and manufacture the sugar, without putting them to any hazardous expense for tools, patents or machinery, provided, however, a reasonable compensation previously agreed upon should be made; in consideration of which persons so disposed would become perfectly acquainted with two of the best processes. The subscriber would however observe, that, profitable as the beet sugar is, or may become, he most invariably has obtained but 6 lbs. of sugar for 112 lbs. cleansed beet, and 3 lbs. of molasses for 112 lbs., instead of the 9 per cent. of *refined sugar* promised in printed reports. Whether this is owing to the quality of the beets or other causes, is unknown to him; but the similarity of produce from different lots of beets and at different times, convince him that it would not be prudent to calculate on more. Early application is requested, in order to accommodate all in proper season.

N. B. It would be preferable when convenient, if several persons would unite and have their beet manufactured in the same location, as it would save time and expense in moving.

M. DUROY.

Samples of different quality may be seen at the store of the subscriber, 310 Washington street.

[Remarks.—We have called upon Mr Duroy, and examined his specimens of Beet Sugar. He showed us six samples of different qualities; he appears to understand himself in relation to the manufacture of the sugar. Although he does not make pretensions to obtaining so great a quantity from the hundred lbs. as Mr Fleichman's report states, yet we believe if any gentlemen are disposed to make trial of his skill, they will be pleased with the result of his experiments, and form some estimate as to the probable success of this enterprise. From what we were told, it appears that every farmer will be enabled after witnessing the process, to manufacture his own sugar, and that too, without any very great expense for utensils or machinery. Should there be a small quantity of saccharine matter remain in the pulp, it should be remembered that it will not be entirely lost, as it will be so much more valuable for feeding stock. Mr Duroy has manufactured the sugar from dried beets, from beets newly dug in the fall, and from beets beginning to grow in the spring, and is of opinion that where a few tons only are to be manufactured, it is much the best to use them in the fall as they are taken from the field. The sample of sugar we examined, made from the dried root, was very dark, in consequence as we were informed, of too great a heat being used in drying it. The specimen of crystallized sugar shown us was very beautiful. Mr Duroy is a native of France, but has been a resident here a number of years. Those who wish to obtain further information, will find him intelligent and disposed to communicate.

We hope the manufacture of sugar beet will not remain a subject to talk about and speculate upon merely, but one of immediate action. Let it be known, if possible, this fall, whether it can or cannot be done to advantage in our country. We know there are beets enough raised this year to make the trial—and if it cannot be made at the first onset a source of profit, (which no one ought to expect,) some estimate can be made of its future success. J. B.]

From the Genesee Farmer.

## DICTIONARY OF TERMS USED IN AGRICULTURE,

*And in the Sciences most intimately connected with its advancement.*

(Continued.)

Cambium.—When the sap from the roots of trees has ascended to the branches, and undergone that peculiar elaboration which fits it for the formation of the various parts of the plant, fruit, wood, bark, &c., it descends towards the roots, depositing in its progress the materials destined to the several parts. Of these, the principal is the substance of the future alburnum and liber. These materials are first deposited in the form of a layer of glutinous or gummy substance, termed the *Cambium*; which appears to consist of the solid portion of the sap, deprived of the greater part of the water. This becomes more and more consolidated, and becomes an integrant part of the plant, constituting two layers; the first, the outer circle of wood, called the alburnum; and the other, the inner layer of the bark, being the liber.

Carbon.—The base of coal. It is found pure only in the diamond. Though this fact was suspected by Newton, it was not established till Lavoisier effected the combustion of the diamond enclosed in iron. As the diamond disappeared, and the iron was converted into steel, (a well known result of the combination of carbon and iron,) the inference was clear that the precious stone was pure carbon, and farther experiments have demonstrated its truth. Carbon forms the base of all wood, and consequently of all trees and plants; and is, therefore, one of the most important principles in nature. Plants, however, never take up the minutest quantity of carbon while in that state, however fine it may be reduced. By a wise provision of Providence, an inexhaustible reservoir of carbonic gas (carbon converted into air) is found in the atmosphere, which readily combines with water, and in that state is taken up by the roots for the support of the plant. The leaves of trees also perform a species of respiration by which carbonic gas is taken into the plant during one half of the day, to be decomposed by the solar rays, and while the carbon is retained, the oxygen is set free and thrown off by the plant to renovate and purify the air. *Carbonic gas* is composed of 27.4 parts of carbon, and 72.6 parts of oxygen. Carbonic gas is fatal to animal life, and to this gas, the deleterious effects of the Grotto del Cano, the Valley of the Upas, the craters of volcanoes in some cases, what is called the choke damp in mines and wells, &c. are owing. No part of a plant has the power of decomposing this gas, except those that are green; hence plants prematurely stripped of their leaves, are at once deprived of their greatest means of procuring carbon, and must suffer accordingly.

Carrot.—(*Daucus carota.*) Few plants exhibit the improving effects of cultivation more strongly than the carrot. In its native state, it is small, dry, fibrous, white and strong flavored; as cultivated, it becomes large, succulent, and rich in color, and nutritive proportions. Carrots contain about ten per cent. of nutritive matter, of which nine is sugar and the remainder starch. Many attempts have been made to make sugar from carrots, but they have failed; while by distillation large quantities of spirits are produced. Twenty tons have yielded 240 gallons. Carrots require a rich *deep* soil, and on any others their growth should not be attempted. They succeed best in rows, 18 inches apart, and 8 inches in the rows. In a shallow soil, or one rich only on the surface, the roots will be scragged, and of an inferior quality. Five hundrrd bushels may be considered the average yield per acre on a good soil, though instances have occurred of yields of eleven or twelve hundred bushels on that quantity of ground. Few roots are of equal value to the carrot for feeding animals. Almost all are fond of them, and their excellence cannot be disputed. They make the finest colored and best flavored butter or beef; horses thrive rapidly on them, and hogs can be fattened on them with ease. The carrot crop is not quite as certain a one as the potato or turnip crop, is rather more difficult in the choice of soils, and more care and labor in the production is required; but still it is one of great value, and where circumstances do not forbid, should always find a place among the roots grown, and rotation adopted by the farmer.

Cart.—Fifty years since, the use of the wagon for farming purposes was almost unknown. The reliance was on the cart and oxen, instead of the wagon and horses. As the latter increased, the former gave way; and now, the use of the cart is mostly confined to farms on which cattle alone are used, and to some particular sections of country. It is a question, however, which deserves serious consideration by farmers, whether more has not on the whole been lost, than has been gained by the change. On grain growing farms, where much ploughing is to be performed, horses are indispensable, and the wagon of course may well be preferred; but there are tens of thousands of small farmers in our country, that, we think, would greatly consult their convenience and profit, by discarding their wagon and its attendant span or two of lean horses, and substituting in their place, for labor, the old fashioned and less costly cart, and a yoke or two of clean built, light travelling Devons, or other good working cattle.

Catarrh.—A disease of horses known under the names of influenza, cold, horse diatemper, &c., and is one of the most common and disagreeable to which this useful animal is subject. It is not usually fatal, or long continued, unless the animal is injudiciously treated, improperly worked while under the influence of the disease, or dosed with injurious remedies. It makes it attack usually in the spring or fall, commencing with fever, followed by discharges of matter from the nose, swelling of the glands of the throat, difficulty of eating or

drinking, and of course much emaciation and weakness. Bleeding is admissible only during the fever stage; setons in the glands, or blisters when much swelled; promoting discharges from the nose, and keeping the bowels open, have been found the most effectual methods of arresting the disease. The distemper is clearly contagious, and infected animals should be kept from those that are sound as far as practicable.

CASTRATION.—The emasculation of animals, calves, pigs, lambs, &c., should be performed as early as the strength of the animal, and other circumstances, will admit. Usually, the only care necessary is to prevent exposure to the cold. Where this is not attended to, serious consequences may result; and we have known flocks of lambs decimated by exposure to a cold rain, immediately after this operation.

CATTLE: a general name comprehending all the animals in the genus *Bos* of Linnæus. There are of course a number of species, such as *bos taurus*, the common ox; *bos caffer*, the wild ox of Africa; *bos urus*, the wild bull of Asia; *bos americana*, the buffalo or bison of the Missouri; and the true buffalo of India, and the musk ox of the Arctic regions. Much labor has been expended in tracing the origin of our domestic races of cattle to the Urus, but we think with little success. As the earliest mention made in history of the ox, he was like the sheep, a domesticated animal, and such he probably descended from the ark upon the plains of Mesopotamia. Domestic cattle become wild with readiness, as the immense herds that roam the pampas of South America at the present time fully prove. Very great improvements have been made in the European breeds of cattle within a few years, principally in England, and that by a few spirited individuals, of whom Bakewell, Collings and Berry, rank among the first. Within fifty years, the average weight of English cattle, as determined at the Smithfield market, has risen one third; and present appearances do not indicate that this increase has reached its maximum. The great improvements already effected, have been made by judicious crosses, and breeding with reference to certain desirable qualities of form, size, milk, aptitude to fatten, &c., and these objects have been attained in some of the best modern breeds of cattle to an extent that would once have been deemed impossible. It is evident that care must be taken, or there will exist a tendency to retrograde to the original standard; a tendency which will become less and less, as the type and constitution of the improved breeds recede farther from the point of their origin, and of course become more fixed and stable. The breeds of cattle at present most in repute, and beyond all competition in any other varieties, are the Durham or Short Horns, and the Devons. Indeed, it is scarcely possible to conceive of more perfect models of form and beauty among animals, than are to be found among these two kinds of cattle, particularly the high bred varieties of the first named. Great pains have within a few years been taken to introduce into the United States the very best breeds of Europe, and finer herds of cattle are no where to be found than now exist in Kentucky and Ohio, which States have taken the lead in this laudable enterprise. As to the general treatment of cattle, our plan does not embrace it, any further than to remark, that cattle require kind treatment, plenty of good food at all times, and protection from the severity of our winters. On these things, next to skilful breeding, the excellence of cattle is mainly depending.

CELLAR.—An important appendage to every dwelling is the cellar, and great care should be taken to have this so arranged that the full benefit desired from it may be obtained. The cellar should be well walled with stone or brick laid in cement; if inclining to be wet, it should be drained so as to present a hard, smooth surface earth, and this will be better if covered with clean gravel. Cellars should wholly exclude frost without being too warm, as fruit and vegetables kept in a warm cellar will not be as good as in one of an equally dry but lower temperature. Since the commencement of the cultivation of roots in this country to a considerable extent, and especially since the making of pork from steamed apples and potatoes has succeeded so well, cellars attached to barns or piggeries have become necessary, and are already constructed in many cases. Cellars of this kind for the reception of roots, should be made so that cart or wagon loads of fruit or roots can be thrown into them at once, without the labor of repeated handling.

CHALK.—Compact limestone, or carbonate of lime, passes into chalk, when the particles that compose the mass are so loosely connected as to render it friable or capable of easy division; in its essential qualities it does not differ materially from unburnt lime. Chalk is extensively used instead of lime for agricultural purposes in many parts of England where it abounds. In the United States there is no chalk, properly so called. The immense beds of white marl, found in some parts of Western New York, are a near approach to it, and the value of such beds as a resource for easy liming soils, will be better appreciated hereafter than it now seems to be.

CHAFF-CUTTER.—In European works on agriculture, straw or hay when cut fine for cattle or horses, and the practice is extensively followed, is called chaff, and the implements by which the cutting is effected is termed a chaff-cutter. In this country, the same implement would be a '*straw-cutter*,' which see.

CHARCOAL.—The woody part of trees or vegetables, when burned without flame, becomes a black substance, which has received this name. The base of this substance is carbon, which is formed from the decomposition of carbonic gas by the roots or leaves of the plant. To produce charcoal, the wood is usually burned in pits, or the wood is first closely piled, and then covered with earth, which causes the wood when the fire is applied to burn slowly and expel the water and oils of the plant, without flame, which, if suffered, would reduce the pile to ashes. Charcoal is invaluable in the arts, and is of essential service to the cause of agriculture. It is found that a bed of finely powdered charcoal will ripen melons, &c., if they are placed upon it, when it would otherwise be impossible to bring them to maturity. This property is owing to its rapid absorption of heat from the sun, and the facility with which it parts with it to such substances as are in contact with it.

CHEESE.—When the cream has been separated from milk, there remains two of the principles of which it is composed, the caseous and the watery parts. It is from the first of these that curd is produced, and when the watery part or whey is separated from this, and the curd is properly prepared and formed, it constitutes cheese. Heating, or the addition of acids of any kind, will convert milk into curd, but the substance used in the dairy, and which is preferred to all others, is a decoction of the stomach of the calf called rennet. This stomach is prepared by drying with spices and aromatic herbs, and when wanted, is steeped in water or whey, until sufficiently strong to coagulate the milk with readiness. Great care is necessary in preparing and preserving the rennet, as on the quality of this, its sweetness, purity, and flavor, much of the goodness of the cheese is depending. Many varieties of cheese have obtained great celebrity, viz. Parmesan, Stilton, Gloucester, Cheshire, &c., in Europe, and the Goshen, Orange, &c. in the U. States. The different qualities depend on the milk, and the different processes adopted in making the cheese. The best cheeses always retain the cream in the curd; those made from milk deprived of the cream is called skim-milk cheese. Cheeses made of goats milk are richer than those made of cows milk, but it is with difficulty they are kept for any time.

The celebrated French cheese called Rochefort cheese, is made of a mixture of goat's milk and cow's milk, and its peculiar excellence is supposed in part, to be owing to the temperature of the rooms in which it is prepared, which being excavated in rock, are always of the temperature of 36° to 40°. Formerly those dairies that made the rich or cream cheeses, such as the double Gloucester, Stilton, &c. were obliged to make them small, and the dairies of this country that imitated such cheese were compelled to do the same, as their rich and tender mass would fall to pieces of itself if made of large sizes. Now the richest cream, or double cheeses are made without difficulty, and of any desirable size, as the curd is pressed and kept in bandages made of thin cotton until ripened and used. The dairy business when well conducted, is a source of great profit, and the American dairies in some parts of the States are exceeded by few in the world for the quantity and quality of their products; a decided improvement having taken place within a few years.

CHEMISTRY.—A science which teaches the relation which matter bears to other matter, and the manner in which the laws of affinity, vitality and organization, perform their several functions. Agricultural chemistry is limited to a knowledge of the substances which enter into animals and vegetables, to serve them for nourishment; and to the study of all the agents which aid them in accomplishing these functions. Agricultural chemistry first assumed a definite form under the labors of Davy and Chaptal, and though but a comparatively few years have elapsed since the attention of chemists was directed to this object, the benefits that have already resulted are immense. It is this which has taught the analysis of soils, the nature and action of manures, and the different substances that go to make up the several parts of plants, and of course the materials that should be furnished them to forward their growth and mature their seeds. Farmers knew how to make the earth produce straw, but to fill the ears with grain was beyond their power. Chemistry came to their aid, and taught them that manures containing phosphoric salts, and those that furnish azote and gluten, are the ones that can alone tend to such a result; in other words, that the soil must have returned to it as much of these essential ingredients as cropping was taking from it, or the production of the grains would be impossible.

(To be continued.)

[For the New England Farmer.]

Mr Breck—I sent you a short statement in reference to the profits of a farm, which was presented to your readers in the Farmer of June 19th: one item of expense was accidentally omitted. Although small in itself, it probably contributes, to say the least, as much as any other expense of the same amount, to the favorable results of farming. That the account may be finished, I give it you to be added to the Dr. side of the account:

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|---|---|
| N. E. Farmer one year | $2 50 |
| Binding one vol. | 75 |
| | $3 25 |

It has been said that farmers are unlike those of other professions in being ready at all times to communicate their experience and results, in order to encourage their brethren and promote their welfare. I wish this was universally the case, and have no doubt that the item of expense above referred to, would aid in bringing about so desirable a distinction. A free interchange of opinions, whether derived from theory or practice, or both, is of mutual advantage, and an incentive to it will be found in a well-conducted agricultural paper, which every farmer should take—regarding the expense as a *necessary, indispensable* one.

Now and then we hear men say that they do not wish to become "book farmers." I have often heard the term used and have heard of some professedly agricultural paper using the term in a significant sense, and have as often been led to enquire what the term means. Can you enlighten me? If explained it may not be so great a bugbear in the way of the farmer's profits. T.

*Westboro, Aug.*, 1839.

[We do not recollect of seeing the terms *book farmer* or *book farming*, explained in our dictionaries, but suppose that *book farmers* are those who in their agricultural pursuits, are desirous to be instructed by the experience of others, as communicated through agricultural books and periodicals: they are not disposod to follow the mode of agriculture pursued by their fathers and grandfathers, without enquiring whether improvement may not be made in each department of their own profession; but as they look around them and witness the great advances made in every other profession by the diffusion of knowledge, they are led to conclude as a matter of fact, that knowledge applied to agriculture will produce improvement the same as when applied to the arts. We have a proof of this in the increased product of their farms, superior stock, fruit, tools, &c. It is not necessary that a "book farmer" should throw away the experience of his ancestors, but endeavor by reading, reflecting, and comparing, to improve upon their system (if they had one) and if possible excel them.

We often hear it said, "we do not wish to become book farmers"—it always give us pain, for we conceive that it is equivalent to saying, we are willing to go on in our business through life ignorant and blind to the improvements of others—satisfied to toil at arm's length an up-hill course, and having enough to keep soul and body together, we are content. It is astonishing that there are so great numbers in our country with so many facilities for improvement, yet groping in the dark, We have often been led to enquire, what shall be done to induce the farmers more generally to read.

J. B.

From the Genesee Farmer.

## OBSERVATIONS ON THE CULTURE OF THE STRAWBERRY.

*By* A. J. Downing, *Botanic Garden and Nurseries, Newburgh, N. Y.*

The strawberry is certainly one of the most valuable and delicious of all the smaller fruits. It is not only easily cultivated, yielding an abundant crop in a short time, from a very limited space of ground; but while its pleasant sub acid flavor is agreeable to all palates, and forms one of the most delightful additions to the dessert in summer, it is also extremely wholesome, never, as is the case with most other fruits, undergoing the acetous fermentation. In some diseases it has even been found highly beneficial, and it is affirmed that Linnæus was cured of the gout by abundant use of the berries.

The strawberry, though a low herbaceous plant, sends down remarkably strong roots. In good soils these are often found to penetrate to the depth of eighteen inches or more in a season. It is necessary, therefore, to produce a fine bed, that the soil be deep as well as rich. Where the sub-soil is not positively bad, the ground is always much improved by trenching, (two spades deep,) before setting the plants. In doing this, a good coat of manure should be deposited between the two spits: old garden soils which have been long cultivated, are astonishingly improved by this practice, the whole becoming renewed by the presence of the fresh soil; and the growth of plants in such mould, when again acted upon by the sun and air, is of course proportionately vigorous. A deep mellow loam, rather damp than dry, is undoubtedly the preferable soil for this plant, but almost any soil for so limited a species of culture, may, in the hands of a judicious gardener, be rendered suitable for it. We have seen very splendid crops of fruit upon a very stiff yellow clay, mellowed down by mixing with it anthracite coal ashes and manure.

The best season for making new plantations of the strawberry is either in spring, at a pretty early period, or directly after the beds have ceased bearing, in August. If the latter time is chosen, the plants generally get sufficiently well established to bear a considerable crop the ensuing year.

There are various modes in which to plant the beds when formed. Some arrange the plants so as to be kept in hills, others in rows, and others, again, allow them to cover the whole surface of the bed. We consider the first method preferable, as in that way the ground can be kept cultivated between the plants; the fruit is generally larger and finer, being more exposed to the genial influence of the sun, and the duration of the bed is greater. Three or four rows may be planted in each bed, at a suitable distance apart, and the runners from the rows should be shortened or cut off about three times during the season. If the plants are not thriving well, a light top dressing between the rows in autumn will be of great advantage.—Burning off the upper surface of the bed in the spring has been highly recommended by some persons, but we have never found it to answer our expectations upon trial.

This fruit receives its name from the very ancient custom of placing straw on the beds, between the rows of plants, to preserve the berries clean. The custom is not yet too antiquated to be of less value to those who desire the fruit in its greatest perfection. Clean wheat or rye chaff may be substituted for straw, and it has the very great additional advantage of not only preventing most weeds from growing, by excluding the light, but also, by decomposing with considerable rapidity after the fruit season is past, it contributes much to the enrichment of the surface soil of the bed. Young and strong runners well rooted, should in all cases be chosen to form the new bed, and not old plants, or those offsets which grow near them.

There is a fact with regard to the strawberry plant little known, the ignorance of which puzzles many a good cultivator. This is the existence of separate fertile and sterile or barren plants in many of the varieties, otherwise plants which produce chiefly male, and others that produce only female, flowers. Botanically, the strawberry should produce both stamens and pistils in each flower, and the blossoms should consequently all mature fruit. This is really the case with the alpine, the wood strawberries, &c., but not entirely so with the large scarlet and pine strawberries. These latter sorts, it is well known, produce the largest and finest fruit; but we very often see whole beds of them in fine flourishing condition, almost entirely unproductive. The common parlance in such cases is that the variety has run out, or degenerated, but the idea is a confused and ignorant one while the healthy aspect of the plants fully proves the vigor of the sort.

The truth is, that in all strawberries of the foregoing classes, although each blossom is furnished with stamens and pistils, yet, in some plants the pistils are so few that they can scarcely be perceived; in others, there are scarcely any stamens visible. When the plants bear blossoms furnished with stamens only, (or in a large proportion,) they are of course barren; when pistils only are produced in abundance, they are fertile. To have a bed planted so as to bear abundantly, about one plant in eight or ten should be staminate or barren blossoming plants; the others the fertile ones—for if the latter only be kept, they alone will also be found unproductive.

If any person will examine a bed of the Hudson or any of the large scarlet strawberries, when they are in blossom, he will discover a great number of plants which bear large showy blossoms filled with fine yellow stamens. These are the barren plants. Here and there, also, he will discover plants bearing much smaller blossoms, filled with the heads of pistils, like a small green strawberry. The latter are the fertile ones. Now the vigor of the barren plants is so much greater than that of the fertile ones, and their offsets are so much more numerous, that if care be not taken to prevent this, they soon completely overrun and crowd out the fertile or bearing plants, and to this cause only is to be attributed the unproductive state of many beds of the large fruited strawberries, which are in many instances perhaps, entirely devoid of fertile plants.

The proper method undoubtedly is to select a few fertile plants of each kind, plant them in a small bed by themselves, and allow them to increase freely by runners; then, on planting, the proper proportion could be made and kept up by the regular clipping of the runners.

Many of the fine English varieties of strawberry, (Wilmot's superb, for instance,) are generally found worthless here. This is owing, in some cases, to the ignorance or want of care of those persons who export the varieties, in sending often, no fertile plants; in other instances, it is equally owing to

our negligence here, in not preserving the due proportion of barren and fertile plants.

This peculiarity in the blossoms is very little known or understood, even among scientific cultivators. It was first pointed out to us by our esteemed friend, N. Longworth, Esq., of Cincinnati, one of our most distinguished Western horticulturists. Its truth we have repeatedly verified, and a slight examination will convince any person of the cause of the numerous worthless yet thrifty looking strawberry beds throughout our gardens.

The finest of the large English varieties of this fruit which we cultivate here is the Bishop's. It is remarkably large, a most abundant bearer, and of superior flavor. Many of the larger berried sorts, as the Methven Castle, have been hollow and comparatively tasteless, though of uncommon size.—This variety, however, appear to us to unite all that can be desired, to constitute a truly fine and delicious strawberry. A. J. D.

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Silk.—Incredulity as to the possibility of raising silk in this country, must, we should think, give way, if facts have any force. It has long been contended by gentlemen who have investigated the matter, that silk might be as easily raised here, and of as good quality, as any where in Europe.—Every experiment, judiciously conducted, has proved the truth of this conviction. We have now almost before our eyes while we write, another demonstration of the practicability of the silk culture in our climate. Dr Deane, of this village, has in the course of rearing, about 40,000 silk worms.—This we believe is the first attempt in this town. Some of his brood have spun their cocoons, a part of which have been reeled and made into very beautiful raw silk. The reeling was performed on a common reel, by a young gentleman, as a temporary amusement. We advise all who are curious in the matters, to call at the doctor's. They will probably see specimens of the business from half to full grown worms; feeding and winding cocoons, together with cocoons ready made, and the raw silk procured from those that have been reeled.

There can be no doubt that the silk business is a profitable one when properly managed. In the first place it is entitled to a bounty of 10 cents a pound on cocoons and a dollar a pound for reeled or raw silk, which is about equivalent to two dollars a pound, where one person raises and reels the cocoons—and this will just about pay the expense attending it. The market price is about five dollars a pound, which will be mostly clear profit.—What better business than this can a man find?—*Greenfield Mercury.*

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Look to your Weeds.—There are few farms in the country, and pity it is that this can be said with truth, on which there are more or less weeds that do not require close attention to prevent their seeding, or otherwise spreading in the course of the summer. There is the thistle, which should be repeatedly mowed, if in pasture land, or if among hoed crops; cut with the hoe as often as it makes its appearance. There is the Johnswort, crowding out the valubable grasses, poisoning sheep, and giving horses chapped noses and legs, if they are so unlucky as to be white: be careful not to let this go to seed. There is the sweet elder, that is becoming far too common; we do not require it for distillation or to color wines, and if we allow the seeds to ripen, we are preparing tribulation for ourselves and neighbors. There is the life everlasting, a worthless intruder that occupies the ground exclusively where it spreads, and that is rapidly, when it is once allowed a foothold. See that this weed is effectually demolished wherever it appears. Look on your spring sown grain, and if it is full of yellow blossoms, you will probably find that charlock is in your fields, and if it is not pulled promptly and completely, you may find business for years in attempting vainly its extirpation. The crowfoot of your meadows, or the daisy of the pastures, must be looked to, else lean cattle may be expected when fat beasts should be looked for. In short, allow nothing to be in your fields that usurps the place of more valuable plants, lessens the amount of your crops, or renders your fields a place in which pests are multiplied to reduce your own profits or vex the souls of your neighbors.—*Genesee Farmer.*

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Grain Plants.—The growth of the wheat, both winter and spring wheat, barley and oat plant, this year, is on the most magnificent scale, approaching to the luxuriance of the tropics. Wheat from six to seven feet in height, not a few stalks only, but whole fields; oats which in size already resemble the cane brakes of the south, and are still towering upwards; barley on the same scale of rapid growth; in short scarcely a cultivated plant, with the exception of corn, (and this is now coming on finely) that does not exhibit the same aspiring character. There is now, (July 22,) every prospect that the barns and the granaries of the husbandman will be filled to overflowing. The wheat crop as far north as Pennsylvania has been secured, and in good condition; and from every account is better than a medium one. Wheat in Michigan, and some parts of Indiana, has suffered much from insects; in some districts of these States the crop will be almost a total failure. This is particularly to be regretted, as the financial condition of the West required the aid of good crops to restore prosperity, and a healthy sound state of things in that respect. —*Genessee Farmer.*

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From the Cultivator.

## EXTIRPATION OF GARLIC.

*Montcalm, Va., June 21st, 1839.*

J. Buel, Esq.—Sir—The extirpation of wild garlic has been regarded rather as an object to be desired by the agriculturist, than one to be successfully accomplished. An experiment, made by myself, not with that view, however, will at least point out one mode by which this unpleasant plant may be destroyed. In one-third of a field of about twenty acres, it had become very thickly set. In the summer of 1836, the wheat grown on this part of the field was so filled with it, that I was induced to keep it separate from the rest, to prevent its injuring the sale of the whole. The next spring, 1837, I planted the field in corn, and in the fall, having a large number of hogs to fatten, and no time or labor to spare to gather corn for them, I turned the whole of them into this field. (This is sometimes done in this part of Virginia.) They remained here till they had nearly consumed all the corn, when they were removed into small pens and fed. I then turned all my store hogs into the field, to finish what was left, where they remained till late in December. In the mean time, as their food decreased, I commenced feeding them once, and afterwards twice a day, during the winter.—My feeder, in December, told me that they were eating the garlic. In the spring, I sowed the field in oats and clover. The oats were good; the clover was destroyed by the burning drought of last summer; thus leaving the field entirely naked. I then determined, (last fall,) although the fourth crop in succession, to sow it in wheat, which I did, and this spring in clover and timothy, a full quantity of each. Now, sir, I have in the last fortnight, repeatedly and carefully searched for the garlic, and found two stalks only, where thousands stood before. The garlic is now in full bearing, and may be easily detected.

It is manifest that this method of destroying this pest will not generally answer. But the idea may be improved on. If a farmer have but one field of corn, and garlic prevails in it, he may gather nearly the whole of it, and instead of seeding it, as is the usual practice, let him turn in all his hogs that are to be kept over to the next year, and they will soon get hold of the roots, &c. He will then put in a spring crop with grass seed. So well satisfied am I with the result in this case, that I shall pursue the same plan in respect to two other fields in which there is a good deal of garlic. It will occur to you, that the ground being light and mellow, from the recent cultivation of the corn crops, the hogs have no difficulty in finding the bulbs, which they will not attempt in a field well set in grass or stiffened with a sod, although abounding in garlic, and this for two reasons: they have a plenty to eat, and with less labor.

Yours, &c. JAS. McILHANY.

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*Early rising* is conducive alike to health, to pleasure, and to profit—we mean to the farmer.—To health, because it gives exercise when the atmosphere is most cool, pure and bracing. To pleasure, because nature is then in her most lovely garb, and the birds most full of song. To profit, because the two morning hours effect more in labor and avert more mischief than four hours at midday. Early rising and exercise in the open air, are the best stimuli for our meals, the best anodyne for sound sleep, the best solace for care, and the best evidence of thrift. "*Come boys,*', is the best reveille upon the farm. The farmer who rises late is generally behind his work; while he who rises early keeps before it.—*Cultivator.*

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*Comparative value of large and small turnips.*—We have frequently alluded to the fact, that the ruta baga is the only cultivated root that increases in nutritious properties as it increases in size.—Sinclair found, on analysis, that a root of the common turnip, measuring seven inches in diameter, afforded only seventytwo grains and a half of nutritious matter, while the same quantity of a root which measured only four inches afforded eighty grains, or double what the large one gave. The largest root of the Swedish turnip afforded 110 grains, while the middle sized or smaller roots gave but 99. The Swede is stated to have grown to weigh 60 lbs. exclusive of tops and tails, in Van Diemen's Land.—*Ib.*

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*Salt your fruit trees.*—A writer in one of our exchanges, mentions a decaying plum tree that stood in the midst of an asparagus bed, which, on dressing the bed copiously with pickle, began to revive and became healthy and fruitful. He accordingly recommends the free application of salt to such trees, presuming it will produce a similar effect. —*Ibid.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,

AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1839.

## MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY PREMIUMS.

The list of premiums offered by the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, have been given to the public in the columns of the N. E. Farmer, and circulated on a separate sheet through the State. We hope they will excite the attention which they justly demand, and lead to an animated competition. They are drawn up with good judgment; the subjects of premium are well selected; and the conditions in every respect liberal to an extreme. Our only regret is that their appearance was unavoidably delayed to so late a period in the season. On this account they may not be seen by some who would otherwise have been competitors; and others may not have cultivated crops which they would have cultivated or in the manner they would have done, had they known what would have been the subjects of premium. In respect to most matters the notice is sufficiently early to do all that is required to be done.

It will be seen that the Massachusetts Society have placed a portion of their premiums amounting to nearly four hundred dollars, at the disposition, in conjunction with a committee of their own body, of the Worcester and Berkshire Agricultural Societies; and to be bestowed upon articles or subjects suggested by the Trustees of these societies, and at their respective cattle shows. These premiums are open to competitors from any part of the Commonwealth, who will conform to the regulations of the local societies. This is an excellent arrangement. It ought to conciliate the favor of the farmers of the Commonwealth towards the State Society, whose proceedings from its foundation have been exceedingly liberal and munificent; and in a degree it is a good substitute for the Show at Brighton, which the Society has judged it best to intermit now for three or four years.

It will be seen in the next place, that the very liberal premiums offered for dairy produce, amounting in four premiums to two hundred and sixty dollars, are open to competition from any State in the Union; and the large premiums of one hundred dollars for a perfect remedy against the locust borer, and the premium of fifty dollars for a remedy against the apple tree borer, and the premium of fifty dollars for the best treatise on the cultivation of the mulberry, and of thirty dollars for the best subsoil plough, and of twenty dollars for the invention of any valuable agricultural machine, are open to any and to all persons. This evinces great liberality; and will, we hope, attract the attention of the ingenious, skilful, and practical throughout the country. We hope that agricultural papers at least throughout New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, will publish these general and unrestricted premiums and invite competitors from among their own subscribers in their own neighborhoods.

It is to the highest honor of Massachusetts that she has made from an early period, the most liberal provision for the encouragement of agriculture; and it is believed that, with the exception of the Society for promoting agriculture and domestic industry in Rhode Island, that there is not another State nor another Society in any State, bestows a single dollar in any direct form for the encouragement of agriculture. We must except the bounty offered on silk in Connecticut, and on wheat and corn in Maine, which are sufficiently liberal, but are hardly to be regarded as the result of a reflecting and settled determination to encourage agriculture in the State and to lead to scientific and exact experiment with a view to the advancement of this great art. New York some years since appointed a board of agriculture and made a very liberal appropriation for the promotion of agriculture which resulted in the publication of several volumes of valuable agricultural papers, which were distributed through the State. They have made likewise two or three attempts at getting up Cattle Shows, and ploughing matches, but there were no premiums offered, and they became nearly abortive.—The Legislature of New York of late years, notwithstanding she has been repeatedly urged by some of her most enlightened and able citizens, has refused to do any thing, though her resources are most abundant, and agriculture must constitute her great interest.

The highest duty of every enlightened government is to encourage agricultural industry. Without agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and every important interest in the community must languish. The products of agricultural industry constitute substantial wealth. In proportion as the products of the earth are multiplied the comforts of the great mass of the community are increased. It is infinitely better for a man, for his health, comfort, and morals to be compelled to resort to a good farm for his subsistence than to a mine of gold—to produce bread and potatoes by his labor, than to heap up the precious metals at his pleasure.

A hard soil, which demands much labor, a climate which calls for the constant exercise of prudence and care, and a condition of things which makes activity and industry indispensable habits of life, are far more favorable to morals, to physical health and to mental vigor and improvement, than a soil which yields spontaneously all that human subsistence requires, and a climate and condition which render all foresight and providence useless. All that seems requisite is that the climate with ordinary and reasonable precautions should be favorable to health and activity; that the soil should yield an ample compensation to well directed labor, and especially that the political arrangements of society should be such as to leave to labor the quiet and perfect enjoyment of the fruits of honest industry.

In all these respects Massachusetts presents advantages which should attach to her most strongly the affections of her children. Notwithstanding all that has been said against her climate, the standard of health among her people is as high as in any portion of the world. Her soil, though in many parts hard and forbidding, makes every where ample returns to those who faithfully perform their duty towards it. Every step we take in the progress of our examination, more and more satisfies us of this. We know thousands of acres of land in Massachusetts, which produce two, three and even more tons of hay to the acre. We know many an acre of land which has been redeemed at an expense of one, two and even three hundred dollars per acre, which even at the last sum, pays an interest of twelve per centum per annum clear of all expenses, and may be kept in this productive state at an expense of the crops of one year in six. We know thousands of acres of land in the State, which might be redeemed and rendered productive at an expense of thirty or fifty dollars per acre, the whole expense of whose improvement would be paid by the first or the two first years' crops, which would prove as productive as any lands in the country. Why then should we complain? ah! there is the labor—there is the labor! This is always the complaint of indolence and self-indulgence—of physical and mental imbecility. But we shall never accomplish any thing truly great, useful and valuable, until we come to the deep conviction that that which costs nothing is, generally speaking, worth nothing; that persevering labor will surmount all difficulties and effect all that human power can do; that in the present condition of human nature, it is a blessing and not a curse that man is doomed to get his living by the sweat of his brow; and that when all its influences are considered, labor is the necessary foundation and source of all that is truly good in the character and condition of man. H. C.

## DISTRESSING CALAMITY!

When will man be satisfied! The papers and letters from the West represent the crops of wheat as abundant as they have ever been known to be. The farmers are beginning to complain that they cannot sell their wheat but at a much reduced price. They seem to be in hopes that their corn, which promises as well as their wheat, may be cut off by the drought that is now coming on, and this may render their wheat the more saleable. Unfortunate men! How often does it seem to be necessary in the dispensations of the Divine Providence, that man's ungrateful complaints should be cured by what the poet calls the "wholesome draughts of unaffected pain."

## MONOPOLY.

It would seem from various accounts that the price of flour for a few years past, has been kept up by speculators in western New York and other places, who having the most abundant facilities in the control of large banking establishments, have bought up all the wheat which they could reach by their agents distributed over the country, and then have fixed the prices at their pleasure. This is one of the beautiful and beneficial operations of an excessive bank capital. The abundance of the crops and various other circumstances have made such changes in the price of flour, that many of these forestallers are laid flat upon their backs. There may they lie till doomsday. Yet perhaps they are not so blameable as the government, which creates and permits the abuse of such facilities to the enriching of a few favored ones at the expense of the many, who cannot get into the sunshine. But Providence suffers no evil to come unmitigated; and renders sometimes the most severe evils productive of good. The high prices of flour for a few years past has greatly stimulated the cultivation of wheat; and abundance now floods the land. H. C.

## WOMEN MILKING.

Thirty years ago it would have been almost as difficult to find a man milking as to find a woman mowing, excepting in cases of very large dairies. In this respect matters are greatly changed; and any hope, for aught we see, of getting back to the old practice, would be vain. Half of the young girls now-a-days hardly know, at least they would pretend that it would be immodest and not at all lady-like to be presumed to know, whether the milk comes from the udder or the horns. "The rosy milk-maid," the title of a song which we remember to have often heard when a boy, is an animal not known in modern natural history; and as to a young lady with thick shoes, a chequered apron, her sleeves turned up, and a handkerchief tied over her head, though the apron should be as clean and the handkerchief as white as snow, and never so pretty a pair of black eyes and ruddy cheeks peeping out from under it, it would be an idea too shocking for one of your modern exquisites even to dream of; and if presented to her abruptly, while looking in the glass in her *mouslin de laines*, with her satin shoes, her gilt hair comb, her paste earings and her insect waist, as crooked as the limb of a scrub oak, she would probably not recover from the fright for a week.

We say we have no hope of recovering the good old habits of former days. Revolutions never go back. Yet in this respect we have lost a great deal. Men are seldom neat enough in their habits to be trusted with milking. They have not the patience to wash their hands or to wash the udder before milking. They are not gentle, and often abuse the animal by their kicks and thumps. They are in a hurry in the morning to get through a business which they dislike; and they come home tired at night; the cows are necessarily milked at an unseasonable hour; and the business is very often very badly performed. Women, on the other hand, are more patient, more gentle, more faithful, more neat; and we were about to say—they ought to do the milking.—The morning air would be bracing to their muscles, (if the modern girls have any muscles, for there begins to be a reasonable doubt in this matter;) and the odor of the cow has been long known to be, and is often recommended by physicians as medicinal. But we will not say what we were disposed to say, because it would be useless. It is utterly vain to attempt a contest with fashion; for according to Franklin's proverb, "he that spits against the wind spits in his own face." We must however, be just: and in riding through Dedham last week at the close of the day, it was quite refreshing to see in at least four cow yards, woman in her appropriate sphere; and by her pleasant looks and her gentle conduct as she sat at the side of the bountiful cow, evincing her gratitude to Providence for this richest of all the benefactors which Heaven has given to man in the form of a quadruped. H. C.

## Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

EXHIBITION OF FRUITS.

*Saturday, Aug. 3d,* 1839.

Black Hamburgh and Zinfendel Grapes, from Mr Otis Johnson, of Lynn; large bunches and finely colored.

Apricots, from Mr C. H. Jones, No 14 Friend street, Boston—fine specimens.

Apricots, from Mr Rundle, Boston—a fine specimen.

Gooseberries, from Mr John Candler, Marblehead.—Roaring Lion and others, handsome.

Old Juneating Pear, from Mr J. L. L. F. Warren, Brighton.

Red and white Currants—fine specimens, from Mr Aaron D. Weld, Roxbury.

Early Apples, from Mr E. M. Richards, Dedham, viz.; Early Harvest, Curtis' Early Striped, William's Favorite, Sopsavine, Red Juneating and Red Astracan—a fair specimen for early fruits.

For the Committee,

B. V. FRENCH.

### EXHIBITION OF FRUITS.

*Saturday, August* 10, 1839.

The Hon. John Welles exhibited fine specimens of the Peach Apricot, from a tree imported from France. Mr W. kindly offers to furnish buds of the same at his house in Summer street, on Saturday next.

Otis Johnson, Esq., of Lynn, exhibited fine specimens of Black Hamburgh and White Muscat Grapes—the latter of superior quality.

Messrs Mason, (Charlestown vineyard,) exhibited the following variety of Raspberries: Mason Seedling, Red and White Antwerp and Barnet—the specimen of the Seedling was pronounced very superior.

E. M. Richards, Esq, of Dedham, exhibited specimens of the following kinds of Apples: Early Bough, Early Harvest, Red Astracan, Red Juneating, Curtis' Early Striped, Sops of Wine, William's Favorite, Sugar-loaf Pippin, Summer Rose, (from a scion of 1838,) Benoni, and the Calville d'Ete; the above specimens by their variety, made a very fine display, and were indeed fine for early fruit, particularly the four or five first named.

For the Committee,
JAMES L. L. F. WARREN.

*Vegetables.*—James L. L. F. Warren exhibited a new variety of Boiling Corn, called *Tit Bit*—very early and of superior quality.

For the Committee,
SAMUEL POND.

### ☞PARTICULAR NOTICE.

*Massachusetts Horticultural Society.*

THE Committee of Arrangements will meet at the Rooms of the Society, 23 Tremont Row, on Saturday next, 17th inst. at 12, M. A punctual attendance is requested. Per order,

S. WALKER, *Chairman.*

*Boston, Aug.* 10*th*, 1839.

### NOTICE.

Our subscribers in Hartford, Conn., and vicinity, will please observe that we have appointed Dr E. W. BULL, Agent for the N. E. Farmer. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

August 7.

### BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, August 12, 1839.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

At Market, 210 Beef Cattle, 20 Cows and Calves, 1500 Sheep, and 200 Swine.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—Last week's prices were fully sustained and on some qualities rather higher prices were obtained. We quote First quality, $8 50 a $8 75. Second quality, $7 75 a $8 25. Third quality, $7 00 a $7 50.

*Cows and Calves.*—A large number were sold. We notice $28, $35, $42, $45 $55, and $60.

*Sheep.*—Sales quick. Lots were taken for $2 25, $2 50 $2 75, $3 00, and $3 50.

*Swine.*—"Dull." A lot of old hogs, mostly barrows, were sold for 6c A lot of fleshy shoats to kill at 7. No lots were sold to peddle. A few shoats were retailed from 7 to 9.

### THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, week ending August 11.

| August, 1839. | | 5 A.M. | 12, M. | 7, P.M. | Wind. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monday, | 5 | 60 | 82 | 74 | E. |
| Tuesday, | 6 | 62 | 86 | 72 | S. |
| Wednesday, | 7 | 66 | 86 | 71 | S. W. |
| Thursday, | 8 | 60 | 78 | 68 | S. |
| Friday, | 9 | 66 | 80 | 67 | N. W. |
| Saturday, | 10 | 55 | 74 | 66 | S. W. |
| Sunday, | 11 | 57 | 78 | 72 | S. |

### WINTER RYE.

Just received at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, a supply of prime Winter Rye for sowing. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

August 14.

### A GARDENER WANTED.

One who understands his business and has good habits Inquire of Mr BRECK, Agricultural Store. G. C. B.

August 7.

### STRAWBERRIES.

Those who are desirous of cultivating this delicious fruit are respectfully informed that the subscriber has succeeded, after a number of years experimenting upon the *Strawberry*, not only in obtaining *new varieties*, but in ascertaining the best method of cultivation.

Specimens of the fruits grown in his *Garden* have been exhibited at the *Massachusetts Horticultural Society Rooms* the *four past years*, and are also too well known in *Faneuil Hall Market* to need a particular notice here.

He has for sale at his *Garden* in *Brighton*, Mass., the following *eight varieties* of *Plants*. They are of superior stock and quality, all *warranted* to be truly named and free from the *mixtures* often found in those offered for sale promiscuously.

Those who are in want of Strawberry Plants, are respectfully invited, and they will find it interesting, to call at the *Garden* and see the *manner* of cultivation. The method of cultivation, and any information desired will be cheerfully given.

The subscriber would state that from many years *personal experience*, he is satisfied that plantations of these vines made the last of July or early in August, by careful and constant attention will produce nearly or quite as much fruit the season following as those plantations made in the Spring will produce the second year.

*Warren's Seedling Methven.*—A new and valuable kind. A free bearer, fruit very large and juicy; fruit measuring four and a half inches have been exhibited the present season.

*Methven Castle.*—Fruit extremely large, high flavored, and showy. Specimens of this kind have been exhibited at the Horticultural Rooms for two years past, measuring five and a half inches in circumference.

*Bath Scarlet.*—Fruit large, full bearer, and beautiful scarlet.

*Early Virginia.*—This is considered the earliest fruit—a free bearer, hardy, and very early; decidedly *a fine kind for market.*

*Royal Scarlet*—Fruit long oval shaped and juicy.

*Hautbois.*—Fruit smaller but very numerous.

*English Wood.*—Fruit well known.

*Monthly.*—Fruit is gathered from the vines from June to October, and in good quantity and fine quality.

☞ Orders left at the *Garden*, or directed to the subscriber, *Brighton, Mass.*, or left at Messrs J. Breck & Co's Agricultural Warehouse, Boston, will be carefully and promptly attended to, and all Plants will be carefully packed and forwarded agreeably to directions.

JAMES L. L. F. WARREN.

Nonantum Vale, Brighton, Mass. July 17. is8w

### New York Urate and Poudrette Company.

*Not incorporated but carried on by individual enterprise.*

The manures are *not divided* among the Stockholders, as are those belonging to another establishment, *but sold*, to applicants, *for cash on delivery. Orders are supplied in the order of time in which they are received.* Urate 50 cents and Poudrate 40 cents per bushel, with contingent charges for bags or barrels, &c.

The company are daily preparing for use, during the warm, dry weather, the materials collected during the past winter, and will have several thousand bushels ready before the first of October next. The material is disinfected and rendered free from offensive smell, by a compound, every part of which is in itself a good manure.

The experience of the past and present years, 1838 and 1839, on Long Island, has satisfied many of the farmers that these manures have the *quickest* operation upon vegetable matter, producing *greater abundance*, and the *cheapest* of any manure they have ever tried.

*Amended instructions* for their use, the result of practical experience, will be furnished on application. The effect *of Poudrette* upon *Grape Vines and Morus Multicaulis* is beyond all comparison.

This company are erecting large and extensive works in the vicinity of the city of New York to prepare the manures, and farmers and gardeners may confidently rely on a supply.

Orders, *post paid*, directed to "*The New York Urate and Poudrate Company*," Box, No. 1211, Post Office, New York, or sent to the store of STILLWELL & DEY, No. 365 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, will be attended to.

The Company will be very much obliged to gentlemen who have used the manures, to give them a statement in writing what has been the result of their use and experiments in relation to them.

New York, August, 1839.

### A GREEN HOUSE CULTIVATOR WANTED.

A man who is perfectly master of Green House management and propagation is wanted by a person who is extensively engaged in the nursery business, and who has a very large stock of green house plants. The object is to make an arrangement with some person, who perfectly understands his business, to take charge, and propagate, and make sales, with a division of the profits. The applicant must be of such a character as can be fully relied upon.

Apply by mail to WILLIAM PRINCE & SON,
August 7. 2t *Flushing, New York.*

## WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

| | | | From | To |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ashes, | Pearl, per 100 lbs. | | 6 50 | 6 75 |
| | Pot, " " " | | 5 00 | 5 25 |
| Beans, white, | Foreign, | bushel | 1 75 | 2 25 |
| " " | Domestic, | " | 2 00 | 3 00 |
| Beef, mess, | | barrel | | 15 50 |
| | No. 1. | " | 14 50 | |
| | prime, | " | 12 50 | 13 00 |
| Beeswax, white, | | pound | | |
| | yellow, | " | 28 | 34 |
| Cheese, new milk, | | " | 10 | 12 |
| Bone Manure, | | bushel | | 35 |
| | in casks, | " | | 40 |
| Feathers, northern, geese, | | pound | | |
| | southern, geese, | " | 37 | 46 |
| Flax. (American) | | " | 9 | 12 |
| Fish, Cod, | Grand Bank, | quintal | 3 62 | 3 75 |
| | Bay, Chaleur, | " | | |
| | Haddock, new, | " | 1 50 | 2 00 |
| | Mackerel, No. 1 | barrel | | 12 50 |
| | No. 2. | " | | 10 00 |
| | No. 3, | " | 6 50 | 6 75 |
| | Alewives, dry salted, No. 1. | " | 6 00 | 6 25 |
| | Salmon, No. 1, | " | 21 00 | 22 00 |
| Flour, | Genesee, cash, | " | 6 62 | 5 75 |
| | Baltimore, Howard street, | " | 6 25 | 6 37 |
| | Richmond canal. | " | 6 00 | 6 12 |
| | Alexandria wharf, | " | 6 00 | |
| | Rye, | " | | |
| Meal, | Indian, in bbls. | " | 4 25 | 4 50 |
| Grain: | Corn, northern yellow, | bushel | | |
| | southern flat, yellow, | " | 90 | 92 |
| | white, | " | 80 | 82 |
| | Rye, northern, | " | 95 | 1 00 |
| | Barley, nominal | " | | |
| | Oats, northern, (prime) | " | 45 | 50 |
| | southern, | " | 40 | 45 |
| Hay, | best English, per ton, | | 16 00 | 18 00 |
| | Eastern screwed, | | 12 50 | 13 50 |
| Hops, | 1st quality, | pound | 16 | |
| | 2d quality, | " | 14 | |
| Lard, | Boston, 1st sort, | " | 12 | |
| | southern, 1st sort, | " | 11 | 12 |
| Leather, | Philadelphia city tannage, | " | 29 | 30 |
| | do. country do. | " | 25 | 27 |
| | Baltimore city tannage, | " | 26 | 28 |
| | do. dry hides, | " | 24 | 25 |
| | New York red, light, | " | 22 | 24 |
| | Boston, do. slaughter, | " | 22 | 23 |
| | Boston dry hides, | " | 21 | 23 |
| Lime, | best sort, | cask | 80 | 85 |
| Oil, Sperm, | Spring and Summer, | gallon | | |
| | Winter, | " | 1 18 | 1 20 |
| | Whale, refined. | " | 50 | 60 |
| | Linseed, American, | " | | |
| | Neat's Foot, | " | 95 | 1 00 |
| Plaster Paris, | per ton of 2200 lbs. | | 2 75 | 2 87 |
| Pork, | extra clear, | barrel | | |
| | clear, | " | 20 00 | 23 00 |
| | Mess, | " | 15 00 | 16 00 |
| | Prime, | " | 12 00 | |
| Seeds: | Herd's Grass, | bushel | 2 87 | 3 00 |
| | Red Top, southern, | " | 90 | 1 00 |
| | northern, | " | | 1 50 |
| | Canary, | " | | |
| | Hemp, | " | 2 62 | 3 00 |
| | Flax, | " | 1 25 | 1 50 |
| | Red Clover, northern, | pound | 17 | 20 |
| | Southern Clover, none, | " | | |
| Soap, | American, No. 1, | " | 6 | 7 |
| | " No. 2, | " | 5 | 6 |
| Tallow, | tried, | " | 12 | 13 |
| Teazles, | 1st sort, | pr M. | 3 00 | 3 50 |
| Wool, | prime, or Saxony Fleeces, | pound | 60 | 65 |
| | American, full blood, washed, | " | 55 | 60 |
| | do. 3-4ths do. | " | 53 | 55 |
| | do. 1-2 do. | " | 50 | 53 |
| | do. 1-4 and common, | " | 45 | 50 |
| Northern pulled. | Pulled superfine, | " | 60 | 62 |
| | No. 1, | " | 55 | 58 |
| | No. 2, | " | 35 | 40 |
| | No. 3, | " | 25 | 30 |

## PROVISION MARKET.

RETAIL PRICES.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hams, northern, | pound | 13 | 14 |
| southern and western, | " | 12 | 13 |
| Pork, whole hogs, | " | | |
| Poultry, per lb., | " | | |
| Butter, tub, | " | 17 | 20 |
| lump, | " | 22 | 28 |
| Eggs, | dozen | 18 | 21 |
| Potatoes, | bushel | 67 | 75 |
| Apples, | " | 1 00 | 1 50 |
| Cider, | " | | |
| refined, | " | | |

PAGINATION INCORRECT



## MISCELLANEOUS.

### CULTURE OF THE MIND.

Mind makes the man—
Want of it the fellow.

This motto, somewhat altered from Pope, has a peculiar bearing upon the agriculturist. The farmer possesses all the privileges, and most of the advantages, of other classes of the community; and if he will improve his mind, his influence will be as potent, and his example as salutary, as the influence and example of any other profession. The richest natural soil will produce neither bread nor meat without culture. The highest natural natural gifts of intellect will not profit the possessor, unless, like the rich soil, they are cultivated with assiduity and care. Good culture not only improves the mind, and fits it for high mental gratification and enjoyment, but it lightens the toils, and greatly increases the profits of labor. Franklin owed his fame, his fortune, and his usefulness, to his early habits of study, of industry, and of virtue. Without these early habits, he probably would have risen to neither fame nor fortune. Some minds, like some soils, are naturally richer than others; yet even apparently sterile minds, like infertile soils, may, by good culture, be made to yield great returns. Let the young farmer, then, aspire to the highest honors of the nation, by endeavoring to improve his intellectual faculties; and if he does not attain the goal of his wishes, he may be sure of greatly improving his condition and of benefitting others, provided always, that he is industrious and honest. However menial and survile agricultural labor may have been considered among the privileged classes of Europe; and however degrading it may yet be held by the would-be aristocracy of America, it has commanded the highest respects of good men in every age, and constituted in our country, the favorite study and employment of a Washington, a Jefferson, a Madison, a Monroe, and a Jackson: of an Humprey, a Livingston, a Shelby, an Armstrong, a Lowell, a Lincoln, and a great many others, whose names will stand out in bold relief upon the future annals of our country. Let, then, no young aspirant for fame and usefulness, shun rural employment, because it does not feed his hopes of distinction, and let no one, engaged in this employmedt forego the opportunity, which his condition presents, of cultivating his mind, as the surest means of sinking *the fellow*, and rising to the dignity of *the man*.

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The Advantages of Office.—The following letter might have been written by a young man in Arkansas to his mother in New Hampshire, and might not—we do not endorse it. It seems that the young Yankee had lately received the appointment of post-master in that State, and that he presumes a good deal upon the strength of it.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

Wildcatsville, Rattlesnake Co. Ark.

*Dear Marm:*—You haint the least idea in the world how I'm a gitting along out here in this Rackansack country. They've lately appinted me post-master in this town, and I'm expectin to get the office of justice of the peace afore long. I've had three cases left out to me already. One on 'em was where a feller had gouged out another chap's left eye, and neither on 'em was sartin shure whether he was at the top or bottom when the thing was done. I knew all about it just as easy, 'cause I was watchin all the time—so I decided the case accordin.

This is a great country! Why, marm, the corn here grows as high as witch hazels, or cherry trees, and the cottin and other fruit beats all calculation.

I'm makin' my etarnal fortin here just as fast as I can. I can du any thing a little smarter than any of 'em, 'ceptin playing cards, but I du think they rather go ahead of me at playin lu and poker, 'cause they almost always win my money.

You know them shirts you said you'd made for me and didn't know how to forrid on; you can send 'em by mail now, as I don't have any postage to pay in consequence of the virtue of my office. If the watermelons are ripe I wish you would send on tu or three: also, them tu pair of nankeen trouses I hadn't room for in my trunk when I started. You'll find a button off on one pair unless you've sow'd it on since I left, and while you are about it you might as well let out that gather in the bottom of 'em—I expect I've grow'd a little since I left hum. Send 'em all by mail—they wont cost me the first red cent.

I've now been here nearly nine months and my health has been first rate nearly all the time. The only sickness I've had worth a mentionin has been the billious fever twic't, the congestive fever onc't, the fever and ager occasionally, and the dumb ager all the time.

Marm, I wish you give my luv to Eunice Homes, and ask her if she recollects that time we went to Hepsey Stearn's quiltin? I wish Eunice was out here now. If you see Zack Stearns tell him he may keep that knife I cum away and forgot, as one blade was broke out and it aint of no great account.

I feel as tho' I had a shake a comin on so I must stop writin. Dont forgit the shirts and trousers. Your luvin sun,

Eben Pettingill.

N. B. Apples is quite scace out here. I would ask you to send on a barrel by post, only I'm afraid they'll lumber up the mail. You can send a peck any how.

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Speak ill of no one without a just cause. There are many people in the world who are in the habit of speaking lightly or contemptuously of their neighbors, and some who do not scruple to treat those who are absent with the greatest disrespect, by showing up their faults to those who are present, without ever alluding to any good qualities they possess. There is nothing so detestable as this habit of backbiting in society; it often produces the greatest bitterness of feelings between those who ought to live in peace and good fellowship towards each other, and it never does any good. It generally arises from a selfish feeling, but sometimes from thoughtlessness; in either case it is injurious to society, and ought to be condemned by every well meaning and sensible person. Selfish persons have generally such an over-appreciation of themselves, and the situation they hold in society, that they are apt to speak of others with contempt, and are never so happy as when they discover the least fault, (however trivial it may be,) in some of their neighbors or acquaintances. Instead of which, it would be well for them to examine their own conduct, to see whether they were without fault, and ask themselves whether they would like any fault or foible they might be guilty of to be made the subject of conversation amongst their neighbors. It would be better if they were to consider the noble destiny which all mankind partake off in common with themselves, both as respects the great moral ends of this life, and the more sublime prospects of the future, if they would remember the great fellowship of our common humanity—the social end—which (as parts of a great community) we are all working to attain, and which awaits us at the close of our brief existence. Let them reflect on these things, and not offend their Creator by injuring their fellow creatures—rather let them judge others with tenderness, as they would wish to be judged, putting aside the weeds that cover the surface of the characters of their neighbors, to ascertain the depth and sweetness of the clear water beneath it.—*New York Sun.*

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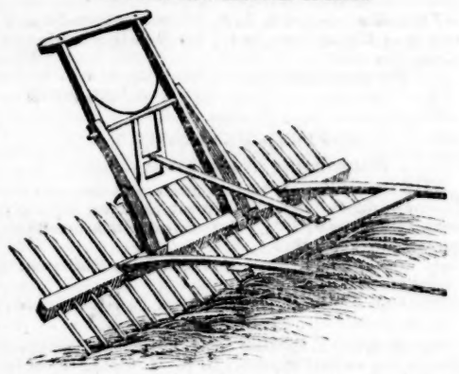
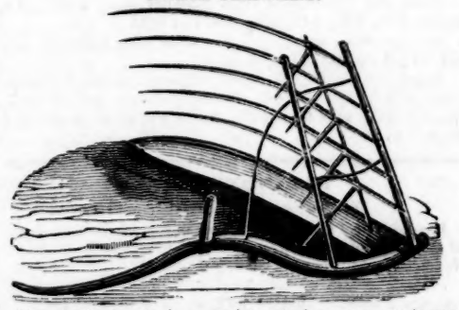
**REVOLVING HORSE RAKE.**



The Revolving Rake which has been in general use in most parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, is found to be one of the most useful and labor saving machines now in use. One man and horse with a boy to lead, will rake on an average from 25 to 30 acres per day, with ease, and do the work well. They are are coming into very general use in all parts of the country, and will, no doubt, in a few years supersede the use of the common hand rake. There is a great advantage in this rake over all others, as the person using it does not have to stop the horse to unload the rake. For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., 51 and 52 North Market Street.

**GRAIN CRADLES.**



The Grain Cradle is an article which is coming into very general use in the New England States, where they were till of late but little known, although they have been in very general use in the southern and western States, for many years, and which is found to be decidedly the best mode of harvesting grain, as it is supposed one man will cradle five acres in a day when he cannot reap more than one. For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., 51 & 52 North Market Street.

July 10.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**THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER**

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